

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 remain in the application with claims 1, 6-10, 13-15, and 17 having been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection to the drawings as not mentioning in the specification reference characters shown in Fig. 6.

The specification has been amended at page 17 in the last paragraph to refer to SL1 and SR1. The other sound sources SL2 and SR2 are described in the first paragraph on page 18.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all characters shown in the drawings are referred to in the specification.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 9-12, and 14-18 under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by McGrath.

As previously explained, the present invention is intended to provide a system for reducing the amount of signal processing necessary in reproducing audio signals in video games and the like, in which it is desired to provide some sound localization effects. This is accomplished by grouping the original sound signals so as to synthesize grouped sound signals of a number that is less than the original plurality of sound source signals. That is, according to the present invention, the plurality of M sound source signals is synthesized into N groups of sound source signals, where N is less than M.

The claims have been amended hereby to emphasize the

above-noted features of the present invention.

McGrath relates to a system for providing localization to two channel audio signals by producing a larger number of signals. In McGrath as shown in Fig. 2, for example, the B-format system is a very high quality sound positioning system that operates by breaking down the directionality of the sound into spherical harmonic components termed W, X, Y, and Z. Thus, as seen in Fig. 2, the audio input signals 9 and 9a, are digitized and fed to B-format determination circuits which produce four channels of output signals X, Y, Z, and W.

Therefore, it is seen that McGrath produces more signals at the output than at the input, whereas the present invention is the exact opposite and results in fewer output signals than originally input.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 6, 8, and 13 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over McGrath in view of Wyse et al.

Wyse et al. relates to a system for producing sound effects and employs some random fluctuations in producing such sound effects.

Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that Wyse et al. does not cure the deficiency of McGrath relating to ending up with fewer signals than were originally provided.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a method and apparatus for processing audio signals in which a plurality of M sound source signals are synthesized into N grouped sound source

signals where N is less than M, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references, alone or in combination.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M".

Jay H. Maioli  
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:tb